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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, whose goodness and beneficence sustains us, thank You for the challenges of this day and for the opportunity to do Your will on Earth. Lord, we acknowledge that it is from You that we borrow our heartbeats.

Today, guide the steps of our lawmakers so that they will follow Your precepts and fulfill Your purposes. Keep them from temptation, from weakness and sin. Lord, fill them with a vibrant faith that will not shrink though pressed by many a foe. May their moments and their days ever flow in ceaseless praise.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 17, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A.

COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes legislative session following the vote on confirmation of the Furman nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3630; that there be up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees prior to a vote on adoption of the conference report; that there be no motions or points of order in order to the conference report prior to the vote; and that following the vote on the conference report, the majority leader be recognized.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:00 a.m., with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half. We will not have the full half hour on each side. It will be until 11 a.m. today. My intent is to have the vote on the two pending matters; that is, the Furman nomination and the cloture vote on the surface transportation bill, beginning at 11 o'clock.

I ask unanimous consent that the second vote in order of that sequence be 10 minutes in duration and that—well, I don't need consent; the vote starts at 11 o'clock.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Following morning business, we will resume consideration of the matters that will be before the Senate. At a time to be determined, there will be at least two rollcall votes.

I am sorry, I will rephrase that. We will have other votes, or vote, to dispense with the conference report. We have to find out what the House does on that matter first.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2118

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 2118 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2118) to remove unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats from seniors' personal health decisions by repealing the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have to give a few remarks. They are very short in nature. Then my friend can proceed, but I will maintain the floor for just a few minutes.

2012 SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we were notified last night that Dr. Heath Morrison, Superintendent of the Washoe County School District—that is Reno and the metropolitan area there—is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S879